
MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF HURLOCK

FEBRUARY 14, 2011 TOWN MEETING MINUTES

THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF HURLOCK MET IN REGULAR SESSION AT THE TOWN HALL ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2011 WITH MAYOR JOYCE SPRATT, COUNCIL MEMBERS CEPHAS, NORDSTROM, ADAMS, DURHAM, CLERK/TREASURER KATHLEEN CLOUGH AND TOWN ATTORNEY HUGH C. VINSON PRESENT. COUNCIL MEMBER MICHAEL HENRY WAS ABSENT.

MAYOR SPRATT CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 6:00 P.M. FOLLOWING THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND THE INVOCATION, UPON MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER NORDSTROM AND SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER DURHAM, THE COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE SCHEDULED AGENDA.

MAYOR'S REPORT

MAYOR SPRATT STATED THAT THE COUNCIL MET IN EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 5:00 P.M. TO DISCUSS A FRANCHISE AGREEMENT WITH CHESAPEAKE UTILITIES. UPON MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS AND SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER NORDSTROM, THE COUNCIL VOTED TO ACCEPT THE FRANCHISE AGREEMENT WITH CHESAPEAKE UTILITIES. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

VOTES :

COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS-	AYE
COUNCIL MEMBER NORDSTROM	AYE
COUNCIL MEMBER CEPHAS	AYE
COUNCIL MEMBER DURHAM	AYE
4-0 MOTION PASSED	

MAYOR SPRATT ANNOUNCED THAT MARYLAND COMPTROLLER PETER FRANCHOT VISITED THE HURLOCK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TO PRESENT THEM WITH THE SILVER HAMMER AWARD. THERE ARE ONLY 15 AWARDS THROUGHOUT THE STATE OF MARYLAND. COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT CONGRATULATED THEM ON THEIR OUTSTANDING WORK.

MAYOR SPRATT SAID THAT PRINCIPAL REGINA TEAT WAS TO BE CONGRATULATED FOR DOING A GREAT JOB TAKING CARE OF HURLOCK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. THE EVENT WAS WELL ATTENDED.

MAYOR SPRATT ANNOUNCED THAT SHE HAS RECEIVED A LETTER FROM FEMA CONGRATULATING THE TOWN ON HURLOCK ON ITS PASSAGE OF THE FLOOD PLAIN ORDINANCE.

COUNCIL MEMBER RICK PRICE STATED THERE WILL BE A BUDGET WORK SESSION EVERY THURSDAY IN MARCH AT 4:00 P.M.

MAYOR SPRATT SUGGESTED THAT THE COUNCIL DISCUSS WHETHER THEY WOULD LIKE TO HAVE A BUDGET RETREAT IN MAY AND DECIDE IF THEY WANT IT HELD ON-SITE OR OFF-SITE, AND IF THEY FELT A MODERATOR SHOULD LEAD THE MEETING.

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COUNCIL MEMBER CEPHAS STATED THEY SHOULD BRING IN AN EXPERT AND HOLD IT OFF-SITE

COUNCIL MEMBER PARKER AND COUNCIL MEMBER NORDSTROM AGREED.

COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS STATED WE WILL NEED A MODERATOR.

THE DECISION WAS MADE TO HAVE IT OFFSITE WITH A MODERATOR.

OLD BUSINESS

MAYOR SPRATT BROUGHT UP MR. AMOS JONE'S REQUEST TO HAVE THE COUNCIL UNSEAL CERTAIN EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES. MAYOR SPRATT ADVISED THAT THESE MINUTES ARE PART OF AN ONGOING LAW SUIT AGAINST THE TOWN BROUGHT BY AMOS JONES AND ARE THEREFORE PART OF ONGOING LITIGATION. UPON CONFERRING WITH THE ATTORNEY HANDLING THE CASE, MAYOR SPRATT WAS TOLD THAT MR. JONES "IS NOT ENTITLED TO THEM UNLESS THE COUNCIL VOTES TO WAIVE THE PRIVILEGE PERTAINING TO THEM."

MAYOR SPRATT SAID THAT SHE HAD NO PROBLEM WITH UNSEALING THE MINUTES; THE TOWN HAS NOTHING TO HIDE.

THE COUNCIL UPON MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER NORDSTROM AND SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER CEPHAS MOVED TO UNSEAL THE MINUTES FROM THE EXECUTIVE SESSIONS.

AT THE REQUEST OF COUNCIL MEMBER DURHAM, WHO WANTED TO REVIEW THEM FIRST, THE MOTION TO UNSEAL THE REQUESTED EXECUTIVE MINUTES WAS TABLED.

REVEREND BONNIE SHIVELY SPOKE ON BEHALF OF MINISTERS AND CITIZENS, STATING THAT SHE HEARS A LOT ABOUT THE MINISTERS AND CITIZENS AND SHE GETS A LOT OF QUESTIONS ABOUT THEM AND SHE DOESN'T KNOW THE ANSWERS. REVEREND BONNIE SHIVELY STATED THAT SHE IS NOT PART OF THAT GROUP. SHE SAID WE DON'T HAVE ANSWERS; IF MORE INFORMATION WAS SHARED THAT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO US.

MR. CEDRIC TURNER PLANS TO ANNOUNCE AND GIVE FLYERS IN REFERENCE TO GANGS WHICH HE STATED IS AN ONGOING PROBLEM IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD.

A MOTION WAS MADE AND SECONDED TO APPROVE THE PERMIT FOR MINISTERS AND CITIZENS FOR GROWTH AND CHANGE MULTI-CULTURAL FESTIVAL ON MAY 14, 2011

VOTE:

CHRIS ADAMS	YEA
MIKE NORDSTROM	YEA
PARKER DURHAM	YEA
CHARLES CEPHAS	YEA

4-0 MOTION PASSED

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OLD BUSINESS CONTINUED

ELECTION OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT, AND VOTE ON MOTIONS REGARDING TERM LIMITS, AND COUNCIL HEALTH INSURANCE WERE TABLED UNTIL THE FULL COUNSEL IS PRESENT.

COUNCIL MEMBER PARKER DURHAM STATED THAT HE DID WANT TO TAKE A VOTE ON COMPENSATION TO HONOR THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE COME TO HIM WHO WANT IT ADDRESSED.

COUNCIL MEMBER DURHAM STATED THAT HE GOT A LOT OF FEEDBACK AFTER THE LAST MEETING AND SAID THAT "WE AS COUNCIL MEMBERS ARE HERE TO DO ONE THING AND THAT IS TO REPRESENT YOU, THE RESIDENTS."

COUNCILMAN DURHAM MADE REFERENCE TO A MOTION AT A PREVIOUS MOTION REGARDING COUNCIL SALARY, EXPENSES, AND BENEFITS. HE SAID "THAT ONE LITTLE THING OPENED THE FLOOD GATES." HE STATED THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A MOTION TO HONOR THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE COME TO HIM AND STATED THAT THEY SUPPORTED THIS DISCUSSION. HE EXPLAINED THAT THERE WOULD BE HURDLES AND HOW IT WILL HAPPEN WILL NEED TO BE EXPLORED FURTHER. HE SAID THAT THE COUNCIL CANNOT CHANGE THESE THINGS MID-TERM; ONLY AT ELECTION. HIS RECOMMENDATIONS WOULD IMPACT THE NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS COMING IN AT THE NOVEMBER ELECTION; THE OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS WOULD WAIT UNTIL THEIR RE-ELECTION OR THE ELECTION OF NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS IN TWO YEARS.

COUNCILMAN DURHAM SAID THAT THE IMPLEMENTATION WILL BE PURSUANT TO RULES AND REGULATIONS. IT WON'T HAPPEN FOR EVERYONE IMMEDIATELY.

"I MAKE A MOTION TO LIMIT COUNCIL MEMBERS COMPENSATION PACKAGE TO A MAXIMUM OF \$10,000" SAID COUNCILMAN DURHAM. HE STATED THAT IMPLEMENTATION WOULD BE AS ALLOWED. THE COUNCIL MEMBERS WHO WANT TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF HEALTH CARE INSURANCE MAY DO SO, BUT THE COST WOULD COME OUT OF THAT \$10,000 PACKAGE. ALSO INCLUDED IN THAT AMOUNT WOULD BE THE COST OF HOTEL, CONFERENCE FEES AND TRAVEL. HE FURTHER STATED "THE TOWN CANNOT SEE ME AS A BURDEN IN EXCESS OF \$10,000."

COUNCIL MEMBER DURHAM FURTHER STATED "WE ALL CAME ON BOARD MAKING PROMISES TO DO WHAT WE THOUGHT WAS IMPORTANT. WE DO HAVE LEGAL COUNSEL TO TELL US HOW TO GET DONE WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE."

COUNCILMAN DURHAM SAID THAT TERM LIMITS OF TWO TO THREE TERMS GIVES A PERSON EIGHT YEARS OR TWELVE YEARS TO ACCOMPLISH WHAT THEY HAVE PROMISED. HE SAID "IF I CAN'T GET DONE IN EIGHT TO TWELVE YEARS WHAT I PROMISED, THEN IT'S TIME TO MOVE ON AND HAVE SOMEONE MORE ON FIRE TO COME IN AND GET IT DONE."

HE FURTHER CLARIFIED HIS POSITION, SAYING "YOU KNOW MY OPINION. I'D APPRECIATE YOU CONFIRMING THAT OPINION OR GIVING ME YOURS."

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OLD BUSINESS CONTINUED

FOLLOWING A DISCUSSION, A VOTE WAS TAKEN TO LIMIT THE COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMPENSATION PACKAGE TO A MAXIMUM OF \$10,000.

COUNCILMAN DURHAM AYE

COUNCILMAN ADAMS: NAY

COUNCILMAN NORDSTROM AYE

COUNCILMAN CEPHAS NAY

VOTE: 2-2

MOTION FAILED.

MONROE QUAILES, RESIDING AT 121 GOLD RUSH LANE, HURLOCK, MD 21643, READ A LENGTHY STATEMENT REGARDING FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUESTS, NO LOITERING SIGNS AND CURFEW, AND THE OPEN MEETING ACT.

NEW BUSINESS

CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTING ATTORNEY GENERAL'S RECOMMENDED MODEL FOR MEETINGS.

MAYOR JOYCE SPRATT ASKED FOR A MOTION TO ADOPT THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S REGULATIONS FOR OPEN MEETINGS IN THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT MANUAL FOR THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF HURLOCK TOWN MEETINGS.

SECTION 1.01 PUBLIC ATTENDANCE

(B) EXCEPT INSTANCES WHEN THE COUNCIL EXPRESSLY INVITES PUBLIC TESTIMONY, QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, OR OTHER FORMS OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION, OR WHEN PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IS OTHERWISE AUTHORIZED BY LAW, **NO MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC ATTENDING AN OPEN SESSION MAY PARTICIPATE IN THE SESSION.**

SECTION 1.02 DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT.

(A) A PERSON ATTENDING AN OPEN SESSION OF THE COUNCIL MAY NOT ENGAGE IN ANY CONDUCT, INCLUDING VISUAL DEMONSTRATIONS SUCH AS WAVING PLACARDS, SIGNS, OR BANNERS, THAT DISRUPTS THE SESSION OR THAT INTERFERES WITH THE RIGHT OF MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO ATTEND AND OBSERVE THE SESSION.

(B)(1) THE PRESIDING OFFICER MAY ORDER ANY PERSON WHO PERSISTS IN CONDUCT PROHIBITED BY SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION OR WHO VIOLATES ANY OTHER REGULATION

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CONCERNING THE CONDUCT OF THE OPEN SESSION TO BE REMOVED FROM THE SESSION AND MAY REQUEST POLICE ASSISTANCE TO RESTORE ORDER.

(2) THE PRESIDING OFFICER MAY RECESS THE SESSION WHILE ORDER IS RESTORED.

THE COUNCIL UPON MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER DURHAM AND SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER NORDSTROM MOVED TO ADOPT THE MODEL FOR MEETINGS.

DISCUSSION:

TOWN ATTORNEY HUGH VINSON CARTER PRESENTED COUNCIL WITH A GIFT OF THE BOOK ON ROBERTS RULES OF ORDER. THE BOOK WILL MAKE THINGS CLEARER FOR EVERYBODY AND INCLUDES DEFINITION OF "WORK SESSION" SO IT IS CLEAR TO PUBLIC.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHARLES CEPHAS STATED THAT HE THOUGHT IT WAS A GOOD IDEA AND IT WOULD GIVE HURLOCK PARITY WITH THE STATE REGARDING MEETINGS.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHRISTOPHER ADAMS STATED THAT THE GIFT FROM TOWN ATTORNEY HUGH CARTER VINSON, COPIES OF ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER, WILL MAKE THINGS CLEARER FOR EVERYONE TO UNDERSTAND. HE ASKED THAT THE DEFINITION OF "WORK SESSION" BE INCLUDED SO IT IS CLEAR TO THE PUBLIC.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

COUNCIL REMARKS

COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS SPOKE ABOUT THE MARYLAND MUNICIPAL LEAGUE (MML) CONVENTION BY SAYING THAT LAST YEAR HE WAS HONORED TO ATTEND; IT WAS VERY BENEFICIAL TO HIM TO SEE HOW OTHER TOWNS OPERATE, AND IT WAS WORTH THE TOWN'S MONEY TO SEND THE COUNCIL.

COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS STATED THAT WE SHOULD HAVE THE TOWN BE A PART OF THE MAIN STREET SHOWCASE WITH MML. HE STATED THAT THIS WILL ATTRACT OTHERS TO THE TOWN. HE SAID THAT WHEN THE ISSUE OF COUNCIL BENEFITS CAME UP HE WAS "SIDE-SWIPE" – THAT IT JUST CAME UP, AND HE FELT THE COUNCIL NEEDED TO DISCUSS IT.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHRISTOPHER ADAMS SAID THAT AT THE MML CONVENTION HE GOES TO CLASSES ALL DAY; HE SAID THAT HE GOES TO EVERY CLASS AND LEARNS A LOT. HE EXPLAINED THAT PEOPLE SELL THINGS SUCH AS STREET LIGHTS, FIRE TRUCKS, AND THAT THERE IS A PLACE CALLED "MAIN STREET" – A SHOWCASE TO GET MORE TOURISTS.

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COUNCIL REMARKS CONTINUED

COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS SAID THAT HURLOCK NEEDS TO START ORGANIZING OUR TOWN AND BE A PART OF THAT "MAIN STREET" AND IT WILL ATTRACT OTHERS TO HURLOCK. HE FURTHER ADDED THAT THE TOWN TOOK OUT AN AD IN THE DORCHESTER COUNTY PUBLICATION, BUT THAT WE CAN DO MORE.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHARLES CEPHAS STATED THAT HE WORKED ON A MAIN STREET COMMITTEE BUT IT FELL APART. HE STATED THAT WE HAVE GOT TO HAVE EVERYBODY ON BOARD IN ORDER FOR THIS TO SUCCEED.

COUNCIL MEMBER CEPHAS STATED THAT HE HAS DRIVEN DOWN TOWN AND THERE ARE SOME NICE HOUSES BUT THERE ARE A LOT OF BAD ONES. HE STATED THAT EVERYBODY NEEDS TO PITCH IN AND HELP.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

PUBLIC WORKS

PUBLIC WORKS COORDINATOR TONY GILLIARD STATED THAT WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANT SUPERINTENDANT ERIC BARNHART'S BROTHER PASSED AWAY AND WWTP OPERATOR BOBBY HARVEY'S MOTHER PASSED AWAY TOO, ASKING THE EVERYONE KEEP THEM IN THEIR PRAYERS.

CODE ENFORCEMENT

CODE ENFORCEMENT JOHN AVERY REPORTED FLOODING ISSUES ON NORTH MAIN STREET. THERE IS A THIRTY-SIX INCH PIPE UNDER ROUTE 307 AND AN EIGHTEEN INCH PIPE UNDER THE RAILROAD TRACKS. THE RAILROAD HAS AGREED TO REMOVE THE EIGHTEEN INCH PIPE AND REPLACE IT WITH A THIRTY-SIX INCH PIPE AND THE TOWN WILL RE-GRADE THE ROAD.

HE STATED THE STATE APPROVED TO REPAIR THE AREA OF LEGION DRIVE AND THE RAILROAD. HE ALSO STATED THAT GOOSE CREEK WORK WILL BEGIN IN THE NEAR FUTURE. ALSO THERE ARE THREE HOUSES IN FORECLOSURE THAT ARE NOW UNDER RENOVATIONS.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

CHIEF HUTTON REPORTED THAT THEY HAD SO MANY ISSUES WITH THE DUTY PHONE THAT THEY HAVE DONE AWAY WITH IT. ALL CALLS NOW GO THROUGH THE COUNTY 911 CALL SO THAT THE CHIEF CAN TRACK POLICE ACTIVITY EVERY MORNING.

COUNCIL MEMBER CEPHAS MENTIONED GETTING A CRIME PREVENTION GRANT FOR EVERY CLERK TO DO OUR OWN DISPATCHING.

CHIEF HUTTON RESPONDED THAT THIS WOULD BE IDEAL.

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POLICE DEPARTMENT CONTINUED

CHIEF HUTTON ADVISED THAT SPREAD OUT THROUGHOUT THE COUNTY WE HAVE SMALL YOUTH GROUPS. HE STATED THAT PEOPLE OUTSIDE HURLOCK DON'T UNDERSTAND, AND THE PERCEPTION OF "GANGS" SCARES BUSINESSES AND FAMILIES AWAY. HE THINKS THAT THROUGH EDUCATION AND PARENT INVOLVEMENT, THIS HOW WE NEED TO HANDLE THE GANG ISSUE.

MR. CEDRIC TURNER, OF SKEET CLUB ROAD, STATED THAT HE CAN IDENTIFY THEM PERSONALLY BECAUSE HE HAS BEEN IN THE PRISON SYSTEM AND HIS NEPHEW IS THERE NOW.

MR. TURNER ANNOUNCED THAT THERE WILL BE A MEETING AT THE FIRE HALL ON MARCH 3, 2011 AT 7:00 P.M. TO DISCUSS PRISON LIFE, PRISON DEMOGRAPHICS, DRUGS AND ALCOHOL, SENTENCING, AND GANG ACTIVITY AND RECOGNITION. HE SAID THAT HIS GROUP'S JOB IS TO BRING IN NEW MEMBERS. HE STATED THAT THE KILLING OF A 62 YEAR OLD HURLOCK MAN IN DELAWARE WAS GANG RELATED.

CLOSING COUNCIL REMARKS

COUNCIL MEMBER NORDSTROM RESPONDED TO REMARKS BY COUNCIL MEMBER CEPHAS: "IN TALKING ABOUT THE BEAUTIFICATION OF HURLOCK, SAYING YOU ARE 'TRYING TO GET SOMETHING FOR HURLOCK' IS A BIG STATEMENT." COUNCIL MEMBER NORDSTROM STATED THAT WE ALL HAVE TO WORK TOGETHER TO GET THIS DONE.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHRISTOPHER ADAMS STATED THAT HE WANTS TO LIMIT TIME TO BE IN THE SEAT OF COUNCILMAN; THIRTY YEARS IS TOO LONG. HE SAID THAT CUTTING BACK ON THE PARADE AFFECTED US AND WE ENDED UP GIVING MONEY AWAY ANYWAY; WE TOOK OUT AN AD IN DORCHESTER MAGAZINE, BUT WE CAN DO MORE.

COUNCIL MEMBER CEPHAS STATED THAT WE NEED TO RECOGNIZE THAT FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH AND MANY DREAMS HAVE COME TO PASS AND SOME HAVE NOT.

COUNCIL MEMBER DURHAM STATED THAT IT IS REALLY NICE TO SEE A GREAT TURN OUT EVERY TIME. HE STATED THAT HE HAS GOTTEN A LOT OF FEEDBACK AND HE HOPES YOU GIVE THE OTHER COUNCIL MEMBER YOUR VIEWS.

COUNCILMAN DURHAM SPOKE ABOUT HIS RECENT TRIP TO A BEAUTIFUL RESORT IN MEXICO, BUT HE SAID, HURLOCK IS BETTER – IT IS MORE BEAUTIFUL AND THIS IS A MUCH BETTER PLACE TO LIVE.

COUNCIL MEMBER DURHAM STATED THAT WE ARE MAKING A TURNAROUND CLEANING THINGS UP AND TAKING PRIDE IN PROPERTIES.

COUNCIL MEMBER PARKER DURHAM EXPLAINED THAT THE COUNCIL HAS HEALTH CARE COMING UP AS AN ISSUE. HE SAID THAT HE DOESN'T TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THAT BENEFIT BECAUSE HIS EMPLOYER TAKES CARE OF IT. HE STATED THAT THE WAY IT IS SET UP, WHEN HE RETIRES HE WILL HAVE TO PAY SOME OF HIS HEALTH CARE COSTS.

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CLOSING COUNCIL REMARKS, CONTINUED

COUNCIL MEMBER DURHAM SAID THAT HE WOULD BE A FOOL TO DO THAT WHEN HE CAN GET FREE HEALTH INSURANCE THROUGH THE TOWN OF HURLOCK FOR LIFE.

AS THINGS ARE RIGHT NOW WITH IN THE TOWN OF HURLOCK, HE WOULD BE ELIGIBLE FOR THAT FREE HEALTH COVERAGE AND THEN STILL BE A BURDEN TO THE TOWN. HE ASKED THE PUBLIC TO GIVE HIM AND OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS THEIR FEEDBACK ON THIS ISSUE.

COUNCIL MEMBER DURHAM SAID THAT THE COUNCIL HAS DONE A LOT OF THINGS HERE TO BRING HURLOCK IN LINE WITH THE COUNTY AND THE STATE. HE SAID "AS A COUNCIL WE ARE WORKING FOR UNIFORMITY." HE SAID THAT THERE WILL BE MORE DISCUSSION WHEN COUNCILMAN MICHAEL HENRY COMES BACK TO DISCUSS THE OTHER ISSUES ON THE TABLE. HE SAID THAT THE PEOPLE'S CONCERNS HAVE BEEN MADE CLEAR TO HIM AND HE WILL NOT GIVE UP ON THAT.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, UPON MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER NORDSTROM AND SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER CEPHAS, THE COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 8:25 P.M.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

BOBBI JO BELL
OFFICE CLERK

KATHLEEN L. CLOUGH, M.S.
CLERK/TREASURER